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E.O.12065: GDS 7/23/86 (LELAWRENCE) OR-AMB
PINS,
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE UPDATE NO 2
REF: KINGSTON 5343
1. C-ENTIRE TEXT
2. SUMMARY- THERE WERE 31 MURDERS IN JAMAICA DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD JULY 16-22. THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ATTRIBUTED TO A POLITICAL GROUP WAS RELATIVELY LOW. PRIME MINISTER MICHALE MANLEY AND JAMAICA LABOUR PATRY (JLP) LEADER EDWARD SEAGA ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT ON JULY 17 CONDEMING THE RISING VIOLENCE AND HAVE TAKEN OTHER STEPS TO REDUCE TENSIONS. JAMAICAN SECURITY FORCES BEGINNING JULY 18 HAVE IMPOSED SHIFTING NIGHTLY CURFEWS AND BLOCKADES IN KINGSTON AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE . END SUMMARY.
3. INCIDENTS BREAKDOWN JULY 16-22
A. TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED MURDERS 31
B. SUSPECTED POLITIFALLY MOTIVATED MURDERS 6
C. SUSPECTED CRIMINALLY MCTIVATE MURDERS 2
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D. MURDERS OF UNKNOWN MOTIAVTION 23
(THESE STATISTICS ARE FROM THE DAILY GLEANER WHICH REPORTS INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE INFORMATION CENTER (PIC)
4. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS. A. ON JULY 16 A BUS CARRYING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) SUPPORTERS HOME FROM A CANDIDATE PRESENTATION RALLY IN BOG WALK, CENTRAL JAMAICA, WAS ATTACKED BY GUNMEN USING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. 12 PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED AND ONE MAN KILLED IN THE INCIDENT. A JLP SOURCE HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT PRIME MINISTER MANLEY TRAVERSED AMBUSH SITE A MINUTE. AHEAD OF ATTACK.
B. ON JULY 17 THE PRIME MINISGR AND THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT DEPLORING THE GROWING VIOLENCE, WARNING SUPPORTERS NOT TO USE IT AS AN ELECTION TACTIC AND STATING ANY CANDIDATES USING VIOLENCE WOULD BE DROPPED FROM ELECTION.
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 25 JUN 1982
RD ☐ or XD ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ EXEMPTION(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFY ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

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C. ON JULY 18 A GROUP A APPROXIMATELY 12 GUNMEN ARMED WITH LARGE CALIBER TEAPONS ATTACKED SEVERAL HOMES IN THE MAJESTY GARDENS AREA OF WEST KINGSTON THE SCENE OF FREQUENT VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN RIVAL POLITICAL GROUPS. FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED, FOUR WOUNDED AND MANY FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES IN THE INCIDENT.

D. ALSO ON JULY 18 THE NATIONAL SECURITY (NSC) MET AND DECIDED TO TAKE SEVERAL MEASURES TO COMABT THE RISING LEVEL OF IOLENCE. AMONG THE MEASURES APPROVED BY THE NSC, ARE; I THE INTROUDUCTON OF 7:30 TO 6 AM CURFEWS AND ROADBLOCKS IN THE AREAS OF KINGSTON/ST CATHERINES MOST AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE. 2) THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT POLICE MILITARY COMMAND CENTER AT THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE 3) THE CALL UP OF THE RESERVES OF THE 3RD BATTALION OF THE JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE, AND 4) THE FURNISHING OF MORE AND BETTER

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EQUIPMENT TO THE SECURITY FORCES.

E. ON JULY 21, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PATTERSON ANNOUNCED TO PARLIAMENT THAT THE PARLIMENTARY COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY WOULD BE REVIVED. HE ANNOUNCED THE GOVERNMEN'S CHOICE FOR THE COMMITTEE PJ PATTERSON AND DUDLEY THOMPSON, AND INVITED THE OPPOSITION TO APPOINT TWO REPRESENTATIVES (WHICH THE JLP HAS YET TO NAME) THE FOLLOWING DAY THE TWO PARTIES ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A JOINT COMMITTEE ON VIOLENCE TO MONITOR AND REDUCE VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA.

F. ON JULY 21 THE POLICE STATION AT ABOVE ROCKS A VILLAGE ABOUT 28 MILES NORTH OF KINGSTON, WAS ATTACKED RANSACKED AND BURNED TO THE GROUND BY A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY TWN GUNMEN.

COMMENT

5. THE SECURITY FORCES ARE REASSERTING THEMSELVES AND MAKING THEIR PRESENCE FELT BY THE NIGHTLY CURFEWS AND ROA?)9:(. THESE COVER A RELATIVELY SMALL AREA BUT SHIFT EACH NIGHT AND THE LOCATION IS NOT ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE.

6. THE INCILENTS ON JULY 16 AND JULY 18 DESCRIBED IN PARAGRPH 4 WERE PRCABLY UNDERTAKEN BY SUPPORTERS OF THE JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP)

7. IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE THE LONG TERM EFFECT OF THE MANLEY SEAGA JOINT STATEMENT AND THE ENSUING EFFORTS VY THE GOJ AND THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES TO STEM THE RISING TIDE OF VIOLENCE. HOWEVER, AT A MINIMUM, WE EXPECT THESE ACTION TO RESULT INITIALLY I[illegible] REDUCTION IN KILLINGS WHICH ARE POLITICALLY MOTIVA[illegible]HE LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED NO KILLINGS DIRECTLY ATTRIB[illegible] TO A POLICIAL GROUP SINCE JULY 18 END COMMENT.

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